

CLAIMS

1. In a network including a scanning device, a scan description language (SDL) method for managing a scan job, the method comprising:
 - 5 scanning a document at a scanning device;
 - constructing a scan job using SDL commands;
 - partially performing the scan job at the scanning device in response to the SDL commands; and,
 - partially performing the scan job at a node connected to the scanning device in response to the SDL commands.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein constructing a scan job using SDL commands includes constructing the scan job at a node selected from the group including a scanning device front panel, a connected web
15 page, and a client connected to the scanning device.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - initiating the scan job from a node selected from the group including a front panel of the scanning device, a connected client, and a
20 connected web page.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein partially performing the scan job at a node connected to the scanning device includes partially performing the scan job at a node selected from the group including a
25 locally connected client, a network-connected client, a network-connected

server, a locally connected server, another scanning device, and a telephone network-connected client.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
5 selecting scan options chosen from the group including resolution (dpi), cropping, output format, destination, compression method, encryption method, access control, and job scheduling; and, wherein constructing a scan job using SDL commands includes forming SDL commands to perform the selected scan options.

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6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
selecting image manipulation options chosen from the group including rotation, negative image, mirror image, zoom, fit-to-size, watermark, caption, metadata inclusion, and color adjustment; and,
15 wherein constructing a scan job using SDL commands includes forming SDL commands to perform the selected image manipulation options.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
20 selecting segmentation options chosen from the group including optical character recognition (OCR), font replacement, language translation, filtering, and vector/bitmap enhancements; and, wherein constructing a scan job using SDL commands includes forming SDL commands to perform the selected segmentation
25 options.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein partially performing the scan job at the scanning device includes initially performing a part of the scan job task at the scanning device; and,

wherein partially performing the scan job at a node
5 connected to the scanning device includes subsequently performing a part of the scan job task at a node scan subsystem.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein partially performing the scan job at a node connected to the scanning device includes initially
10 performing a part of the scan job task at a node scan subsystem, prior to despooling the scan job; and,

wherein partially performing the scan job at the scanning device includes subsequently performing a part of the scan job task at the scanning device.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein partially performing the scan job at a node connected to the scanning device includes finishing the scan job task at a node scan subsystem, subsequent to partially performing scan job tasks at the scanning device.

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11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
deleting SDL commands from the scan job associated with a particular task, after the task is performed.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein constructing a scan job using SDL commands includes constructing a scan job including SDL commands and scanned document data; and,

the method further comprising:

5 substituting scanned document data in the scan job, following the completion of a scan job SDL command.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

10 inserting new SDL commands in the scan job, following the completion of a scan job SDL command.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein constructing a scan job using SDL commands includes constructing a first scan job;

15 wherein partially performing the scan job at the scanning device includes partially performing in response to the first scan job SDL commands; and,

wherein partially performing the scan job at a node connected to the scanning device includes partially performing in response to the first scan job SDL commands.

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15. In a network including a scanning device, a scan description language (SDL) system for managing scan jobs, the system comprising:

25 a scanning device including a first scan subsystem having an interface to accept a scan job constructed using a scan description language (SDL) commands, to accept a scanned document, and to supply

at least a partially processed scan jobs in response to the SDL commands;
and,

5 a first node connected to the scanning device including a
second scan subsystem having an interface for accepting the SDL
constructed scan job and an interface to supply at least a partially
processed scan job in response to the SDL commands.

16. The system of claim 15 further comprising:
a second node including a language assembler having an
10 interface for supplying the scan job SDL commands; and,
wherein the second node is a device selected from the group
including a front panel of the scanning device, a connected web page, and
a client connected to the scanning device.

15 17. The system of claim 15 further comprising:
a third node having an interface for initiating scan job
processing; and,
wherein the third node is a device selected from the group
including a front panel of the scanning device, a connected client, and a
20 connected web page.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein the first node is a
device selected from the group including a locally connected client, a
network-connected client, a network-connected server, a locally connected
25 server, another scanning device, and a telephone network-connected
client.

19. The system of claim 15 further comprising:
a fourth node having a scan unit with an interface to receive
a document and an interface to supply the scanned document; and,
5 wherein the fourth node is a device selected from the group
including the scanning device, another scanning device connected to the
scanning device, and a fax machine.

20. The system of claim 16 wherein the second node
10 language assembler has a user interface (UI) for selecting scan options
chosen from the group including resolution (dpi), cropping, output format,
destination, compression method, encryption method, access control, and
job scheduling, the second node supplying scan job SDL commands to
perform the selected scan options.

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21. The system of claim 16 wherein the second node
language assembler has a UI for selecting image manipulation options
chosen from the group including rotation, negative image, mirror image,
zoom, fit-to-size, watermark, caption, metadata inclusion, and color
20 adjustment, the second node supplying scan job SDL commands to
perform the selected image manipulation options.

22. The system of claim 16 wherein the second node
language assembler has a UI for selecting segmentation options chosen
25 from the group including optical character recognition (OCR), font
replacement, language translation, filtering, and vector/bitmap

enhancements, the second node supplying scan job SDL commands to perform the selected segmentation options.

23. The system of claim 15 wherein the scanning device
5 first scan subsystem initially performs a part of the scan job task; and,
wherein the first node second scan subsystem subsequently performs a part of the scan job task.

24. The system of claim 15 wherein the first node second
10 scan subsystem initially performs a part of the scan job task, prior to despooling the scan job; and,
wherein the scanning device first scan subsystem subsequently performs a part of the scan job task.

15 25. The system of claim 24 wherein the first node second scan subsystem finishes the scan job tasks, subsequent to the partially performing of the scan job tasks at the scanning device first scan subsystem.

20 26. The system of claim 15 wherein the scan subsystems delete SDL commands from the scan job associated with a particular task, after the task is performed.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the scan subsystems
25 accept a scan job with scanned document data and substitute scanned

document data in the scan job, following the completion of a SDL
command.

28. The system of claim 26 wherein the scan subsystems
5 insert new SDL commands in the scan job, following the completion of a
scan job SDL command.

29. The system of claim 26 wherein the second node
language assembler constructs a first scan job;
10 wherein the scanning device first scan subsystem partially
performs the scan job in response to the first scan job SDL commands;
and,

wherein the first node second scan subsystem partially
performs the scan job in response to the first scan job SDL commands.
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